

# My Little Pony™

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One day, Baby Glory, Baby Firefly and Baby Bow Tie were helping Gusty tidy up the leaves in Whispering Wood.

"It's all right for *you*, Gusty," grumbled Baby Bow Tie. "You only have to blow the leaves off the

trees. We have to sweep them up into neat piles ready for Mother Nature to put them away in her autumn store cupboard until next year!"

"Heavy hooves, yes, my hooves are so tired," agreed Baby Glory. Baby Firefly nodded her head in agreement as she rested her broom for a moment and sighed deeply.





"Pony feathers, I am sorry! I keep forgetting that you're still only baby ponies," cried Gusty. "I really must slow down. I know, I'll use my special spell and make the leaves up into heaps myself."

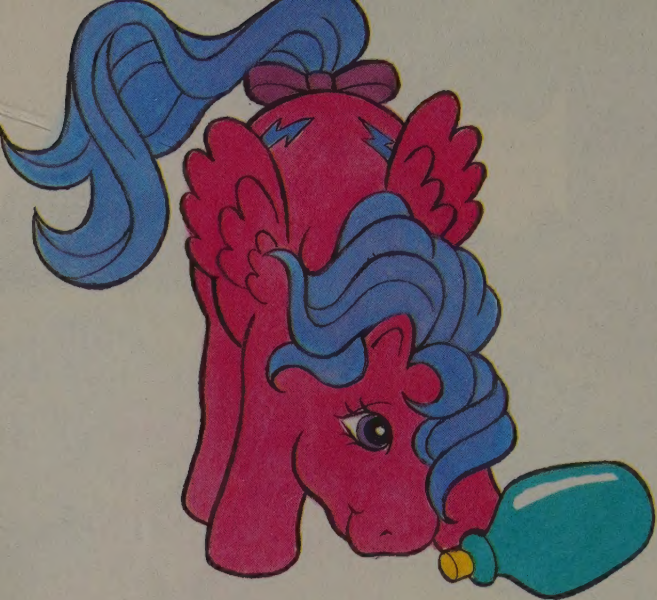
"Thank you, Gusty," said the baby ponies gratefully, and they sat down under a shady tree to watch Gusty set to work.

Suddenly, Baby Glory started to wriggle about. "What's wrong?" asked Baby Firefly.

"I'm sitting on something. Look, it's an old bottle. It must have been lying here hidden for simply ages!"







"Pony feathers, look, there's something . . . no . . . someone inside it!" cried Baby Firefly, peering at the bottle closely. "Gusty," she called. "Come and see what we've found!"

"Hooves and manes and marvellous magic!" Gusty shouted



in great excitement, as she held the bottle carefully between her hooves. "I do believe . . . yes, it's a genie. Majesty once told us all about these magic beings. They granted wishes and . . ."



"Oh, open it quickly, please Gusty. I'd love to have a wish granted!" begged Baby Firefly.

Gusty hesitated. "Perhaps we had better ask Majesty first," she said slowly.





"But it's such a long way to Dream Castle from here, and my legs are so tired," replied Baby Glory.

In fact there was no need to return to Dream Castle because Majesty always looked into her magic crystal ball to see what was happening to any of her little pony friends when they left the meadow beyond Dream Castle.



But what she saw in her crystal now  
filled her with great dismay and,  
twirling her magic horn so that her  
voice would reach the Whispering  
Wood, she sang:

*"Gusty, Gusty, do take care!  
Baby ponies, all beware!  
Please do not set this genie free,  
Because he'll cause trouble for you  
and me!"*





"Gusty, Majesty is telling us not to free the genie or there will be trouble!" cried Baby Glory.

"Let's bury it under the leaves again!" said Baby Firefly and Baby Bow Tie together.



"I don't know what you mean," said Gusty. "I didn't hear anyone singing to us," she added, but the baby ponies noticed she had crossed her hooves as she spoke.





\* "Gusty *did* hear," whispered Baby Firefly to the others. "She's just pretending she didn't because she wants to open the bottle!"

Baby Firefly was quite right. The thought of a genie granting her wishes had turned Gusty into a very silly little pony.



As the baby ponies watched in horror, Gusty opened the bottle!

"Free! Free at last, after a thousand years!" cried a triumphant voice, and out of the bottle floated a very old and very bad tempered genie.



"Er . . . I'm Gusty, and I want you to grant me a wish," began Gusty eagerly.

"Grant you a wish? Don't you know who I am?" mocked the genie. "I'm no ordinary genie. I don't grant wishes, I'm Joker, the



joker genie! I play tricks—nasty ones—on little ponies like you!”

“Pony feathers, Gusty. Why didn’t you heed Majesty’s warning?” the baby ponies said, cowering back in horror as the genie approached them.





"If only I had," groaned Gusty.  
"Please, Joker, don't harm the baby ponies. It's all my fault. Play your tricks on me!"

"Magic moonstones, I'll play my tricks on you and all the ponies in Pony Land," grinned the genie.  
"For a start, how do you like being swept up?"

And before poor Gusty or the baby ponies could reply, they were caught up in a great whirlwind and blown right across the sky to the meadows of Dream Castle.



Gusty and the baby ponies fell in a great heap at Majesty's feet. She had seen everything that had happened in her magic crystal and had rushed out as she heard the approaching whirlwind.





"Pony feathers, Gusty, what have you done?" she cried in despair. "Why didn't you heed my warning? The joker genie causes trouble and unhappiness wherever he goes! He will play cruel jokes on everyone until we manage to get him back in the bottle!"





And Majesty was quite right! The baby ponies were so afraid of Joker that they were unable to sleep.

"I'll play them a sweet lullaby on the soft velvet night clouds," said Medley to her friends Moondancer and Twilight.



But as she drummed her hooves on the cloud, instead of sweet music there was a terrible wailing sound.

"How do you like my music?" mocked Joker, as Medley tried to soothe the frightened cries of the baby ponies.





Next morning, as Lemon Drop was practising her jumps, her hooves suddenly stuck together. While she was asleep the wicked Joker had painted them with sticky horse chestnut glue. It took hours for Posey and Cherries Jubilee to wash it off in the Waterfall!



And the genie just stood there and laughed and laughed!

"Majesty, the genie really is horrid!" cried Trickles, at the meeting that Majesty had called when she heard what had happened. "I was just watering Posey's special flowers and then Joker filled the watering can with black ink and the flowers were all spoiled!"

"Has he played tricks on anyone else?" asked Majesty, looking round.

"He burst all the balloons and broke the kites that Surprise and Skyflier made for us!" sobbed Baby Firefly.





"And then he tied us all up with the ribbons from the tails of the kites," cried Baby Bow Tie. "If Firefly hadn't seen us and come down to untie us we would still be up there on Windy Hill!"



Just at that moment Tootsie and Lickety-Split burst in. "Sorry we're late," cried Lickety-Split, "but we've only just managed to get away from the genie. He keeps making us provide him with ice-cream and lollipops!"





"Pony feathers, yes, I remember now. He does like sweet things," said Majesty. "They make him quite fat!"

"He's very fat now," said Lickety-Split. "He keeps stuffing himself with double chocolate ices, raspberry sauce and nutty topping!"



"He's eaten ten pollipop latches already!" cried Tootsie. She gave a little smile as the baby ponies all rushed over and picked a lollipop. Lollipops always grew when Tootsie muddled her words.

"Do you know, this has given me an idea," cried Majesty. "Joker is both greedy and vain. I wonder if . . ."





"What do you wonder?" asked the little ponies eagerly.

"Come along and see. I'm going to find Joker! Gusty, come with me, and bring the bottle. And make sure you bring the stopper!"

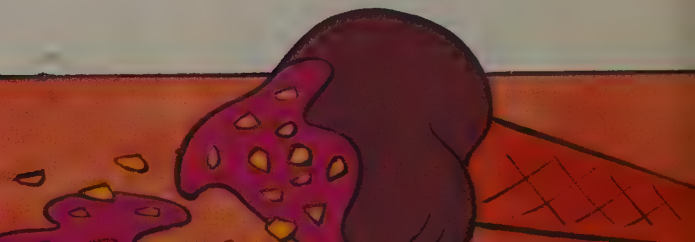
Joker the genie was down by the Waterfall, which he had turned very cold so that poor Duck Soup, Sprinkles and Bubbles shook and shivered in the water.



He looked up in surprise as he saw the procession, headed by Majesty and Gusty. "What do you want?" he asked rudely. "If you think that you're going to get me back into that bottle, you're very mistaken."

The baby ponies and the others looked at each other in dismay, but Majesty only laughed. "You couldn't get back into that bottle, even if you wanted to," she chuckled. "You've grown too fat!"

"Fat! *I'm* not fat!" cried the genie angrily. "I can fit into that bottle *quite* easily!"







"Prove it!" retorted Majesty.

"I will!" shouted the genie.

He moved over to the bottle and started to float in. The little ponies held their breath as he squeezed and puffed and panted!

"Perhaps he really is too fat!"  
cried Baby Firefly to Baby Glory.  
But help was at hand. Twirling her  
magic horn, Majesty sang softly:

*"Little ponies have no fear,  
Nasty genie disappear!"*



"I've changed my mind. I want to get out!" shouted the genie, and he tried to scramble out, but it was too late. Majesty's magic pulled him down, down, down, right to the bottom of the bottle!





"Gusty, put the stopper in quickly!" cried Majesty.

Gusty acted like lightning, and the genie was imprisoned. How Gusty and the others laughed to see his angry face inside the bottle, demanding to be allowed out again!

"I'll never open another bottle ever again!" promised Gusty, as Lemon Drop and Posey dug a deep hole in the darkest corner of Whispering Wood and buried the bottle there.

And if *you* ever find a bottle in Whispering Wood, remember what happened to Gusty and leave it where it is!









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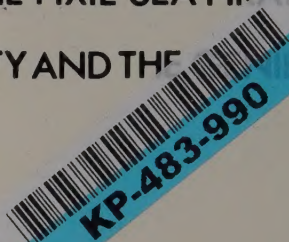
**TITLES IN THIS SERIES:**

**THE GRAND PONY PARADE**

**THE MAGIC NUT TREE**

**THE LITTLE PONIES  
AND THE PIXIE SEA PIRATES**

**GUSTY AND THE**



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